



United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



Prepared by the Capitol Visitor Center Project Office, Architect of the Capitol

July 25, 2005



A welder seals a joint between steel utility pipes in the ceiling of the CVC service level. Steel braces support the pipes along the length of the corridor.

This Week – Ongoing Work – 7/25/05 through 7/29/05

CVC and East Front Plaza:

- Workers continue to install mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, erect masonry block work and metal stud walls, place concrete, install finish stone, and apply plaster to interior corridors.
- Interior stud wall erection, sheetrock and plaster work will continue in the food services area and adjacent corridors.
- Exterior wall stonework will continue along the pedestrian ramp on the south side of the CVC entrance zone. Crews may begin installing the cap stone along the top of the north pedestrian wall.
- Stone crews will continue installing finish stone to the masonry block walls on the north and east ends of the Great Hall.
- Stone layout has begun inside the south Orientation Theater.
- Installation of piping and support steel continues adjacent to the CVC's 20 air handling units.
- Masons will complete assembly of the stone benches along the East Capitol Street Extension.
- On Monday, July 25, 2005, temporary construction fencing was erected adjacent to the House Steps and House Carriageway to secure a zone for the construction of a small underground tunnel that will connect the House wing directly to the Capitol Visitor Center. Signs have been posted on the fencing to identify this work. Access will be maintained at all times to the House Carriageway Member and Staff Entrance, the South Door Entrance and the House Steps. Member parking also will not be affected.

East Front Extension

- Crews will continue installation of masonry block walls and mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems.

East Capitol Street Utility Tunnel

- First Street continues to be constricted to clear the way for utility work in this zone. One lane of traffic will continue to be maintained in each direction at all times. Pedestrian access is available on the west side of First Street.
- Pile installation will continue at the east end of the tunnel near its connection to existing utilities at Second Street.



In the Capitol Visitor Center Exhibition Gallery, workers raise a portion of the frame structure for the Gallery's south wall. When completed, the wall will house lighting elements that will illuminate the interior glass façade where a facsimile of the U. S. Constitution will be displayed. The wall will also feature a description of the House and Senate as well as a case for original acts or amendments passed by Congress.

Next Week – 8/01/05 – 8/05/05

CVC and East Front Plaza Work

- A portion of the sidewalk along the western half of First Street NE/SE (between Maryland Avenue and Congressional Drive) will be closed beginning Monday, August 1 to allow crews to perform utility work within this zone. Crosswalks will be painted at the closure points and the adjacent curbs will be made accessible to persons with disabilities.
- Crews will continue to install ductwork and piping for all heating, cooling, supply, waste water, fire protection, and electrical systems; build mechanical spaces, install cable trays, place concrete, erect blockwork and metal stud walls, and install finish stone in areas on all three levels of the CVC.
- Installation of ceiling studs and plaster work will continue in the food services area and adjacent corridors.
- Exterior wall stone installation will continue along the south side of the CVC entrance zone and stone installation will continue on the steps at the north side of the CVC entrance.
- **Beginning Monday, August 1, 2005, parking will no longer be available within the temporary parking lot on the Senate Plaza** located just north and east of the Senate Wing. This restriction will clear the way for Capitol Visitor Center construction crews to complete East Plaza activities, including installation of granite pavers and historic elements, and to restore the Senate triangle, a landscaped area that had been removed for the construction of the CVC truck tunnel. Alternate parking arrangements have been coordinated through the Senate Parking Office.

East Front Extension

- Crews will continue to erect blockwork and install mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems.

East Capitol Street Utility Tunnel

- Utility work and temporary bridge construction will continue at First Street at the connection point with the new utility tunnel. Lane constrictions and pedestrian detours along First Street NE/SE will continue for several months.

If you have any questions about the Capitol Visitor Center project, please contact Tom Fontana, Communications Officer, at (202) 228-1310, or by e-mail at tfontana@aac.gov. You can read this document and previous editions on the CVC web site at www.aoc.gov.



Clockwise from bottom left: An electrician connects wire to an electrical box in the CVC Service Level; (middle left) a welder modifies a steel beam that will support a staircase near the Congressional Auditorium; (top) stone masons set a granite block in place along the north wall of the Congressional Auditorium; (above) a stone mason sets a piece of granite for one of the historic lanterns designed for the East Front Plaza by Frederick Law Olmsted in 1874. Other historic features on the East Capitol Grounds, including fountains and seat walls, were carefully disassembled and removed before construction began in August 2002. The original stone and other historic elements are now being reinstalled in their original locations across the plaza. New elements on the Plaza, including two elevator towers and benches, will incorporate stone and materials consistent with the historic Olmsted features.



Top: A labyrinthine system of ductwork occupies much of the ceiling in the CVC service level. Here, sheet metal workers position a large section of duct into place. A sophisticated air handling system, including 20 separate air handling units, will control air flow throughout the CVC.

Above: Stone masons set sandstone to a threshold in a corridor adjacent to the Great Hall. In all, stone comprises approximately \$35 million of the Sequence 2 contract, which itself encompasses the build-out of the CVC, installation of all finish materials and restoration of landscape elements.

Left: An auger is used to drill holes for steel piles near the west end of East Capitol Street. The street has been closed to traffic to allow crews to construct the primary utility tunnel for the Visitor Center.